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**REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE ON 2 MARCH 2010**

**SUBJECT: SMALL GRANTS BUDGET (SECTION 20) – APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – SCOTTISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORUM AGAINST POVERTY**

**BY: CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 To invite the Committee to consider a request for a Section 20 grant assistance for 2009/1 affiliation fees from the Scottish Local Government Forum Against Poverty.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to considering the financial and budgetary policy of the Council.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Committee consider the Section 20 grant application for affiliation fees for 2008/09 from the Scottish Local Government Forum Against Poverty and if agreed the affiliation fee will be met from the Small Grants Budget for 2008/09.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Expenditure of this nature requires to be determined within the provisions of Section 83 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. Under these provisions, as amended by the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, such expenditure, now under Section 20, must not only be in the interests of the area, but should also bring direct benefit to the area or inhabitants commensurate with the expenditure incurred.
- 3.2 At the Policy & Resources Committee on the 25 August 2009 (para 22 of the minute refers) it was agreed that the decision as to whether to remain with the Scottish Local Government Forum Against Poverty await their AGM on 28 August at which Councillor Jarvis would be present.
- 3.3 Councillor Jarvis has advised that at the AGM, the Forum discussed recruiting additional staff and he had been advised that the Forum would continue to be looking for fees from the Moray Council in the future.

- 3.4 Attached is the criteria for a Section 20 grant (**Appendix 1**). The affiliation is based on a population determined formula and in Moray's case this amounts to £870.
- 3.5 At the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee on 29 March 2006 (para 23 of the minute refers) an award of £870 was made for 2005/06 and £870 for 2006/07. At the meeting of the Policy Committee on 5 March 2008 (para 29 of the minute refers) it was agreed to award £870 for 2007/08.
- 3.6 A copy of their constitution, annual report and audited accounts for 2007/08 is in the Members Library.

#### **4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

- (a) **Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan**  
This refers to National Outcome 7 "We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish Society" and the Local Outcome which states that "Inequalities in Moray will be addressed".
- (b) **Policy and Legal**  
None
- (c) **Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)**  
The Scottish Local Government Forum Against Poverty is requesting affiliation fees of £870 for 2008/09 and if agreed, the fee will be met from the Small Grants Budget. **Appendix 2** provides details of the Small Grants Budget. A provision of £870 has been allowed for in the 2008/09 unaudited accounts.
- (d) **Consultations**  
Consultations have taken place with the Chief Executive and Deborah Bosworth, Principal Accountant who concur with the recommendations of the report.

#### **5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 That the Committee considers the request from the Scottish Local Government Forum Against Poverty for affiliation fees for 2008/09.**

Author of Report: Cynthia Carswell, Committee Services Officer

Background Papers: Section 20 Grant application form and Annual Report from Scottish Local Government Forum Against Poverty

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